

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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INFORMATION ON NEW MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT AVAILABLE FROM STILWELL

INDIANAPOLIS – Area residents looking for more details on the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit can now pick up that information in a publication available free of charge through the office of State Rep. Russ Stilwell (D-Boonville).

"More than 900,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Indiana are now able to start enrolling in plans to receive this drug benefit," Stilwell said. "Considering the size and scope of this new program, it is very likely that seniors will have a number of questions about the plan, including what the new coverage looks like, whether it makes sense for them to enroll and how they should go about choosing a Medicare prescription drug plan.

"Many of those questions can be answered in a publication my office has received through AARP Indiana that is entitled 'The New Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage: What You Need to Know,'" Stilwell said. "Through an arrangement with AARP Indiana, I am able to offer copies of this publication through my Statehouse office free of charge. Simply contact my Legislative Assistant, Anne Hancock, and she will pass the information along to you."

The benefit, created as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, gives seniors and disabled people already on Medicare access to drug coverage, beginning in January 2006. At that time, Medicare will begin to offer government-sponsored policies issued by insurance companies that are designed to help protect people against the rising cost of prescription drugs.

"Before making the commitment to sign with one plan, I feel all eligible people should have the chance to explore all the options that are available," Stilwell said. "This AARP publication does a comprehensive job of explaining the coverage and the possible choices that can be made.

"In recent years, Indiana has made great strides in helping older Hoosiers meet the rising costs of their prescription drugs," he noted. "Seniors should not be forced into choosing to spend their limited incomes on either prescription drugs, food or their heating bills. Through these programs, we hope to give local residents a chance to see the full array of options that can help them remain healthy."

To order a copy of the AARP publication, you can contact Stilwell's office by calling the Statehouse toll-free at 1-800-382-9842, e-mailing the lawmaker through his Internet Web site at www.IN.gov/H74 or writing to: State Rep. Russ Stilwell, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H74